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AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Exhibits of the handiwork of 2,000-
000 colored school children in all
parts of America form part of the
Lincoln jubilee exhibit in the Col-
iseum, Chicago.One of the leading exhibits is that
of Wilberforce university, the oldest
colored institution in America, and
a school where students are taught
everything from Latin to making
pewshaws. Another school which
has a well-arranged exhibit is Howard
university of Washington, D. C., while
the instruction given to Negro stu-
dents in medicine, pharmacy, den-
tistry and nursing is well displayed in
the exhibit of Meharry Medical col-
lege of Nashville, Tenn.Chicago is not neglected, for there
are 15 boys and a like number of girls,
about sixteen years old, who are dem-
onstrating the training in the manual
arts and domestic science courses
which is given in the local public
schools.The Chicago display is under the
direction of A. J. Brinkman of the
Hendricks school and Miss Ellen
Gerty of the Mitchell school.Wilberforce university is near
Xenia, O., and is in the direct line
taken in the middle of the last cen-
tury by slaves escaping from their
southern bondage. The archives of
the school are filled with thrilling in-
cidents of the escape of slaves, some
of whom had the temerity to stop and
attempt to secure an education at
Wilberforce.The university was founded by the
Methodist Episcopal church, and Dr.
Rust of the Freedmen's Aid was its
first president. When the war broke
out, communication with the South
was cut off and the Methodist church
wished to sell the property.A brewery offered to buy it, but the
offer was turned down and finally it
was bought by Dr. Daniel A. Paine,
a prominent colored man, and con-
trol of the institution passed to the
African M. E. church. Now the school
is well established financially and an-
nual sums are appropriated by the
Ohio legislature for its support. Last
year the appropriation was \$25,000.
There are now 500 students, ranging
in age from fourteen years upward.The exhibit includes a plow which
was made by a student, examples of
cabinet work in the line of bookcases,
chairs and other furniture.Howard university at Washington,
D. C., is represented through a num-
ber of photographs showing the stu-
dents in various phases of their col-
legiate work. Howard university was
founded by Gen. O. O. Howard, who
was supported by Harriett Beecher
Stowe, Henry Ward Beecher, Stephen
A. Douglas and other noted Americans
of the Civil war days.The work of the Catholic church is
shown through the exhibit of five or-
ders of nuns, the Oblate Sisters of
Providence, the Sisters of the Holy
Family, the Sisters of the Blessed Sac-
rament, the Techny Sisters and the
Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The
first two sisterhoods named are exclu-
sively for colored women.Much has been said of what Booker
T. Washington is doing for the Ne-
gro. So much has been said that was
good of his influence, and so much that
was bad, that we have hesitated be-
tween the right and the wrong of it.
writes Mrs. J. P. Held in the Birming-
ham (Ala.) Age-Herald.We have sometimes come in contact
through our domestic service with an
element of arrogance, impudence andOf the total number of 7,317,922 Ne-
groes ten years of age and over, enu-
merated in 1910, 5,192,235, or 71 per
cent, were reported as gainfully em-
ployed, the percentages for males and
females being 87.4 and 54.7 respec-
tively. The corresponding percentages for
native whites were 77.9 and 19.2. Of
the gainfully employed Negro males,
30.9 per cent—almost one-third—were
farm laborers, and 25 per cent were
farmers. The other leading occupation
groups for Negro males, with the per-
centage of the total represented by
each, were as follows: Laborers, build-
ing and hand trades, 5.2; laborers, saw
and planing mills, 2.9; laborers, steam
railroad, 2.7; porters, except in stores,
1.6; draymen, teamsters and express-
men, 1.6; coal mine operatives, 1.2;
laborers, porters and helpers in stores,
1.2; waiters, 1.1; laborers, road and
street building and repairing, 1.1;
cooks, 1.0; deliverymen, stores, 1.0;
carpenters, 1.0.For females, the leading capacities
in which employed, with the percent-
age represented by each, were as fol-
lows: Farm laborers, 48.1; laundresses
(not in laundry), 17.3; cooks, 10.2;In response to the advertisement of
the United States navy department
for 1,500,000 teak decking logs, a Ma-
nila lumber firm has submitted an
offer of 500,000 feet of yacal, a Philip-
pine wood resembling teak, which is
regarded as the equal of teak for con-
struction purposes. This is the first
time that such offers of Philippine
woods have been made to the navy.It all depends. If you are not inter-
ested in golf it is a bore. If you are it
is a pleasure.ignorance who claim tutorage, even to
have graduated at "Booker Washing-
ton's school." These have prejudiced
us against an attempt to educate the
Negro.Again, we have members of the
race living among us giving good, in-
telligent, unpretentious service, striv-
ing quietly for right, and working ca-
pably in their line of industry.This is because we do not know,
have not actually seen what is being
done for the Negro, with Alabama as
the working center.A week ago I left Birmingham for
Tuskegee, reaching there the after-
noon of the same day. Arriving at the
depot at about two o'clock, I was driv-
en through the quaint little town, with
its huge shade trees and colonial
homes, to the Tuskegee Normal Insti-
tute.From the moment I entered the
grounds I saw the result of a wonder-
ful industry—a small city laid off in
streets, with parks, blooming plants
and graveled driveways. The center,
the school plant and its workshops,
with a circular border of well-kept
homes, the homes of the teachers.
At a distance a beautiful view of grow-
ing fields and meadows with stock
grazing leisurely along. Amazed does
not express my impression at first, and
astonishment never ceased in my
rounds. All of the route from Mon-
gomery along the way I had noticed
the same old plantation shanty, the
wash pot and the half red dog, I could
never have imagined such a transfor-
mation from existence to comfort, from
idleness to work, could have taken
place within so few miles of one to
the other.The story reads like a fable. In
1881, 34 years ago, there was a politi-
cal campaign on in Macon county.
The Negro had a voice in the elections.
As a reward for political service a
promise was fulfilled to the leader of
the Negro voters—that a good teacher
would be furnished to the Negroes
of Tuskegee. Booker T. Washington
was the fulfillment of that promise—a
political product that has worked
well. He had been educated at Hamp-
ton, Va., and came in response to the
demand for a teacher—thus the Ne-
gro race came to be in possession of
a leader whose influence has been felt
over the world, and whose executive
ability has built a city of his own
out of the barren fields in Macon coun-
ty. Land was purchased at \$1 an
acre; then that has price today. Grad-
ually the school property has in-
creased in acreage until it numbers
2,300 acres now, with 1,500 under cul-
tivation. Already there are 25 hand-
some buildings of brick, dormitories,
study halls, dining hall, a Carnegie
library with a circulation of 4,000
books, a hospital recently built and
equipped at the cost of \$55,000; an
electric plant at a cost of \$200,000 has
just been finished. These bear the
names of the philanthropists who have
made them possible. All of the labor
has been done by the student body of
the school—even the brick are made
on the premises. This is a wonderful
workshop from gateway to field. It
would take one a week to see the in-
dustry that is under process of crea-
tion along all lines; and a book to
enumerate all I thought and half that
I saw.The entire work of shop and field is
done by the student body, thus the ex-
pense of procuring the advantages
offered by the school is very much re-
duced to the pupil.farmers, 2.9; dressmakers and seam-
stresses (not in factory), 1.3; school
teachers, 1.1.Statistics compiled by the National
Negro Business league show that in
the fifteen years of the organization's
existence the value of farm property
in this country owned by Negroes has
increased from \$177,404,688 to \$492,
892,218. That is a truly remarkable
record of race progress in thrift and
in the agricultural pursuits which it
has latterly been the fashion to encour-
age. The Negro at least is setting an
excellent example in "getting back to
the land"—New York World.A Springfield (Mo.) man took out
homestead papers the other day on
an 80-acre tract of land 100 miles
from that city. Before applying at the
land office for the papers he walked
the entire distance and back in order
to visit the property. When he got
back he had just enough money to
pay for the land and cover the neces-
sary fees.You can never tell what a woman
thinks by what she says.People generally speak well of Hobe
Fisher, who is a hopeless inefficient
and who has been a burden on his
wife's people ever since he was mar-
ried. But they bitterly attack Samuel
Plympton, who is rich and influential
and one of the fairest men in town.Medical men say that persons who
attain their thirtieth year without suf-
fering from any serious disease are
likely—all things being equal—to live
till they are at least seventy-eight
years of age.

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